Some of my friends suggested I write a history of myself to take up some of my time. I was very lonely after Maylon passed away.

The month and year is June 1976.

I try not to think back to my childhood because it wasn't too happy. My mother died when I was seven years old. I was very lonely and very much afraid of my stepmother, Mary.

I loved school and would ask the teacher if I could stay and help her because I was afraid to go home. Mary couldn't speak English and I couldn't speak German. I never knew when I was going to get a beating--and I never knew why.

One night Mary had a pan of hot water on the kitchen stove. She was going to scald me as I came through the door, but my brother, Orson, came through the other door at the same time I came in. He grabbed her arm and the boiling water went on the floor.

Because I could not eat the doughy bread she made, she never set me a place at the table, so I very seldom went to the table to eat. I would get an apple out of the cellar.

On Friday night after school, Pa would let me walk over to Heber and stay with my sister, Ardell. There I would have good balanced meals for a couple of days until I had to go back to Midway Sunday night so I could go to school on Monday morning. I dreaded Sunday night to come.

I went to live with Ardell when Barbara was two weeks old. To me she was the most beautiful baby I had ever seen, and I got to tend her. I was 13 years old. I loved to tend all three children--Glenna, Ed, and Barbara. It was my job to bathe them every Saturday night in a galvanized wash tub. Glenna and Ed were beautiful children and I used to take them to town in a baby buggy. Everyone would remark how beautiful they were and I felt so proud.

Ardell used to play the piano early in the morning to wake us up. It was so cold in our bedroom that we would grab our clothes and run down the stairs to dress where it was warm in front of the heatrola.

Ardell would say, "Do you want to do the work or tend the children?" I always wanted to tend the children. When Barbara was too big for her basinette, she slept with me. When I left the house I would have to slip away, but Ardell could come and go and Barbara didn't care.

I remember when Roy was born I tended him also. When I went to Salt Lake to go to business college, I got so homesick for all the kids I didn't know if I would ever make it.

I lived with my cousin, Heber Hicks, and family. After I finished school, Heber got me a job in the Deseret Bank Building. I hated it. I hated being alone and I became a clock watcher.

I met a girl named Melba Ahlstrom. She worked in a factory with a lot of girls sewing. It sounded fun. I asked her if I could live with her and if she could get me on at the factory. . ."Pykes Overall Factory." She said she lived with two sisters and she would ask them. They decided after seeing me and talking to them that I could live with them.

I got a job for $10.00 a week. I paid $5.00 a week to them for room and board and $1.00 tithing. I had $4.00 a week to spend. I always had nice clothes and sometimes I would send something to my sister, Bernice, who was very poor. Their children wouldn't have a Christmas if it wasn't for me, but I loved giving to them. It just made my Christmas. I loved buying gifts to take home to Ardell's children. I went to Heber often as that was my home.

In the summer time when school was out I went to Idaho to help Rachel on the ranch. Rachel was good company and we had a lot of fun together. I was about the same age as her boys and the high school boys who worked there in the summer hauling hay. On Saturday night, we would go to Hailey to celebrate.

The Pyke Company wanted some girls from Salt Lake to go to California to start a factory at Santa Rosa, California.

There were 13 girls from Salt Lake that went by train to Santa Rosa. It is a beautiful city--all the streets had roses in bloom. There was a lot of flowering trees. I thought it looked like a paradise. Melba and I lived together. We met a girl who was alone (Alta Manwaring). She was a very nice person so we decided to ask her to live with us. We got along very well. I felt very close to both of them.

After 50 years we are still very good friends. In fact, Alta and I see each other every week. We go to the senior Citizen Center together on Redwood Road. We have lunch and play bingo. Melba lives in San Francisco. We see her once a year or sometimes it is two years. We had a lot of good times together. I had another good friend in San Francisco--Beth Engh--from Salt Lake City. Beth lived with her sister, Marie. Melba and Velma went to Salt Lake and Beth and I practically lived together on days off. I wanted to see the world so I told Beth and Marie I was going to Los Angeles. Marie was married and the mothering type. She said, "You can't go there and not have someone meet you." She had a girl friend in Los Angeles by the name of Alta Page. She wrote Alta to meet me.

It was very exciting. I went by boat and out of 250 people on board there was only ten people on the boat who didn't get sick. I was one who didn't get sick, but I enjoyed the rough sea. Alta met me and invited me to her apartment which she shared with Drucilla and Leilla Larson. They decided that they liked me and asked me to live with them.

I looked for a job Monday morning and had a job by 9:00 a.m. working in a blouse factory. I quit my job in San Francisco on Friday and had a job, home, and new friends in Los Angeles by Monday.

Alta Page was my favorite friend. We had a lot of fun. There were three boys from Santaquin, Utah. They were nice clean boys. (Orvil Carter, LaMar Carter, and Grant Nelson). They lived together. Grant fell for me. I liked him okay. He had a car and we would all go to the beach. He had a car with a rumble seat. I went with Grant four years. He wanted to get married and I would say someday when he had a good job. I was having too much fun just as things were. I didn't want anything to change. I went home every summer for two months.

I went back to L.A. to live with Alta--she had her sister, Lucille with her. Alta got married leaving Lucille and me together. We met John and Clyde Routh. It was depression and we made our own good times. We got married. We went on a trip to Utah on motorcycles--the four of us--stoping many places to rest. I found a small unfurnished house and bought furniture. Lucille and Clyde lived across the street from us. After Johnny was born, I moved to a larger house. After moving in, I found out I had moved in a house just behind Dorothy Reid Ivers, a girl friend I went to high school with.

We went to Matthews Ward Church together. Dorothy and Glenna Bonner Ivers belonged to a club. They played cards and invited me when they needed someone to fill in. Later I belonged to the club. Only 12 persons could belong and when voted in, it had to be 100% vote to get in the club. I loved every member and they were special friends. Each had an important position in the Church. I started teaching in Primary and stayed from the time Diane was a few months old until she graduated. John wasn't interested in the Church, but he encouraged us to go. He always paid his share on church buildings and church farms.

The children and I went to church, then after church we would go someplace different every week. We would eat out wherever we happened to be. The children loved eating out.

John quit his delivery job and purchased a jewelry store on Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles. Later John bought a larger store and Clyde worked for him, then his mother, and a girl named Margie. He also hired a crippled watchmaker. Clyde then bought his own jewelry store.

Los Angeles was filling up with colored people so we moved to Utah. We had a home in Canyon Rim district and a jewelry store across the street from Z.C.M.I.

The children went to school at Canyon Rim District, Olympus High School. We came to Utah the last of March. Johnny was in his last year of high school and he stayed in L.A. with Glenna and graduated from the University of Utah in Utah.

Glenna and Hugh moved to Los Angeles when Dean was a baby. I was so happy to have them there. They lived about one mile from us. Glenna tended my children and I tended her children. We always spent our holidays together--Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years day. We belonged to the same ward and had mutual friends. I hated to leave Glenna and friends when we came to Utah. We didn't like the colored people moving in around us.

At first things were fine. We had our jewelry store across from Z.C.M.I and we went on a trip every weekend. We went to Yellowstone Park, Bear Lake, the parks in Utah, and the Grand Canyon. We went to Colorado and several times back to California for visits.

Shirley and Mac were so nice to us; we went places with them. We bowled together. Later we bought a boat and would go fishing on a different lake every week. We went to Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge, and to Strawberry Lake.

We lost money in the jewelry store and John stayed out a lot at night and drank. We went into the hearing aid business and did well. I helped him in the hearing aid business as I did in the jewelry store.

Finally I could not take his drinking and got a divorce. I was so lonely I thought I would die. I started going to the senior citizen center on 20th south and 42nd East and I went bowling with the senior citizens. I took a class in art and one in exercise. I ate lunch there almost every day.

I met Mayton Hale at the bowling alley. He was very good for me. He had such a sense of humor, and we went somplace of amusement every day....golf, fishing, bowling, traveling. I didn't want to get married but he said he wouldn't see me anymore unless I married him. My divorce was final March 5 and I married Maylon March 7, 1973.

He was very affectionate and I felt so safe and content with him. We enjoyed going to church together. We went to the caribbean on a honeymoon and to the fair in Oregon. We went to the Rose Parade in Portland. He had a large trailer and we would park it in Midway at the Wasatch Trailer Park for a week at a time and go fishing at Rock Port or to Deer Creek or over to Midway. We went to the Grand Canyon, Colorado, Idaho, Canada, and so many other places.

His children were nice to me while Maylon was living; but as soon as he died, they treated me like I didn't exist and locked me out of my house. I had to get a lawyer to get my things.

Jean helped me through a very difficult time...I don't know how I would have got along without her. I sold my apartment house to Jean. My home to Diane.

I met Rose Hansen and Mabel Dorrity at the bowling alley. We decided to learn to play the harmonica. After graduating from a class, we joined the Murray Harmonica Senior Citizen Band and we have had a lot of fun playing two or three times a week. It is such a special group--better people never lived. We have fun. They call Rose, Mabel, and I the 'three musketeers' We are always together. On Sunday we eat lunch together, go for a ride or do something together. On Wednesday I bowl with my two brothers, Orson and France....only three of us left in the family.

I have moved from Garfield Avenue to Aix LaChapell Condominium. Glenna moved here from California and lives across the hall from me. Jean bought the condo and I rent from her. I am so happy to have Glenna across the hall from me. We see each other every day.

I had my troubles--Johnny, my son, was in an accident after he graduated from college. He went to California to learn to manage a veteran's hospital. It was raining and a car ran into him. His head went through the windshield of his car. He cut the top of his head badly and had a nervous breakdown and brain damage. It was such a bad time in my life. I try to keep it out of my mind. I will worry about him until I die.

Jean had cancer twice. The second time I never thought she would pull through, but she is fine. It was a worry for two years.

I moved here in this condo-- which is in a very friendly ward and I feel so lucky to have so many nice friends.